

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer system comprising:

- a computer with one or more memories, one or more central processing units, and one or more interfaces to one or more networks;
- a tuplespace data structure that identifies one or more server computers, a geographic location for each server computer, and authorized, password-protected shared data fields made available through the network to create an extranet image; and
- an extranet monitor software program that detects incoming messages from one or more requester server computers, being one of the server computers, determines a service required by the message, stores a service request corresponding to the service in the tuplespace data structure along with the geographic location of the requester server computer and one or more destination server computers, the destination server computers each being a server computer, the extranet monitor further routing the message to the destination computer.

2. A computer system, as in claim 1, where the extranet monitor receives an XML representation of a document list that matches the original request in response from the destination server computer and routes the document list to the requester server computer.

5 3. A computer system, as in claim 1, where the extranet monitor receives an XML representation of a document in response from the destination server computer and routes the document to the requester server computer.

10 4. A computer system, as in claim 1, where the extranet monitor determines which destination server computer or computers can respond to the request only from the set of server computers.

5. A computer system, as in claim 1, where the service comprises any one or more of the following: a search for one or more documents, a retrieval of one or more documents, and a registration of the server computers for participation in the extranet.

15 6. A computer system, as in claim 1, where each destination server computer defines specific content that can be searched and retrieved from the destination

server computer in response to messages from the extranet monitor.

7. A computer system, as in claim 3, where the XML representation of a document contains any one or more of the following: proprietary content; and educational content including lesson plans, activity plans, descriptions of educational resources, descriptions of teaching strategies, and curriculum content.

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